be nominated to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. No reply was given by Government to that representation. Government should nominate a member of the community to every session of the Assembly in future.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY : Mr. Sankara Pillai, the policy of Government in the matter has already been explained by the Dewan. It is only by rotation that minor communities can gain representation in this Assembly.

166. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. KUTTI ASAN KUNJU SOOPI (*Member, Municipal Council, Quilon*) said that the educational backwardness of Muslim girls was greatly due to the purda system prevailing among them. If the necessary conveniences were afforded to them for attending schools, they would certainly not keep back. For example, if a primary girls' school was opened in some retired place at Quilon, there were five hundred pupils eager to go there. But there was nobody willing to open the school. If, however, Government gave a suitable land for the purpose, there were people ready to provide the building and furniture. The Muhommedan Inspector had already brought the proposal to the notice of Government. The member requested that Government might sanction it soon.

The Muhommedan community was not getting adequate representation in the Legislative Council. If special electorates could not be created for them now, Government should nominate at least two of their representatives to the Council every time.

In the matter of higher education, special scholarships should be granted to Muhommedan students. If Government could grant scholarships only to clever students, the request of the member was that these scholarships might be granted to clever Muslim students.

A committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed at once to examine the condition and management of Wakf properties. The fact that more than one member had taken up this subject at the present session pointed to the urgency of the matter.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY : Mr. Kutti Asan Kunju Soopi, the site asked for by you for extending the premises of the primary school for Muslim girls in Quilon is said to be required for the use of the Excise Department and is not therefore available. You select and apply for another site, the application will be considered.

167. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. PIR MAHOMMED MUNAVARI MAHOMMED ISMAIL MUNAVARI (*Member, Nominated*) urged that the Muslim community should be treated as one of the three important communities of the State, the other two being Hindus and Christians. The members of the community in the service, the law graduates to begin with, were to be accorded some concessional treatment at least for a few years. This was advocated only as a means of stimulating education among the masses of the community.

In regard to public bodies, at least two Muhommedan members should be nominated to the next Legislative Council.

In order to give an impetus to female education among Muslims, a special Inspectress of Schools should be appointed. She should not only supervise the Muslim girls' schools but also persuade Muslim parents to send their daughters to schools.

Among other needs, the member urged for the early introduction of the study of Hindustani in all schools. A sufficient number of teachers could be provided for this purpose by requiring all Arabic munshees to pass an examination in Hindustani.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY : Mr. Munavari Sahib, in regard to the representation of Mahomedans in the public service, Government have more than once expressed their views, and I do not think I have anything to add to what the Dewan himself has said on the subject.

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As regards your suggestion to appoint an Inspectress of Girls' Schools to supervise Mahomedan schools, the number of such schools is small and there is hardly any necessity for such an appointment.

MEMBER : One of the objects for which I ask for the appointment of an inspectress is to carry on propaganda work among the members of our community.

PRESIDENT : That I think had better be left to the leaders of the community.

Then in regard to the introduction of the teaching of Hindi in schools, I do not know how the matter stands. I shall look into it.

168. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. M. MUHOMMED HUSSAIN (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) said that Muslims were poorly represented in the Registration, Excise and Police Departments. There were several qualified pleaders among the Muslims, who the member stated could be appointed in these departments. As regards the Judicial Department, the rules regarding experience at the bar was standing as an obstacle in the way of many Muslim vakils. In view of the backward condition of the community it was necessary that Government should relax this rule in their case. So far as the Excise and Police Departments were concerned, several Muslim officers had already done good work in these departments. Qualified Muslim candidates who were practising as pleaders might be appointed in these departments. The member also said that in the matter of appointments, so far as Muslims were concerned, Government should not make any distinction between sects within the community. Once they made such a distinction, they should give preference to the Non-Dakni sects. These were immensely larger in number than the others and were the real sons of the soil. Most of the qualified men also belonged to these sects. They had therefore to be preferred to the other sects. The member felt constrained to say so much on this point because Government seemed to favour the policy of giving separate representation to Dakni Muhommedans.

Next, the member said that Government should introduce compulsory primary education among the Muslims.

Under the existing rules, Arabic munshis were appointed only in schools where there were not less than twenty-five Muhommedan pupils. The working of this rule caused hardship to many Muslim boys. The member urged for the minimum number of boys in a school for the appointment of munshis being reduced to fifteen. In the vernacular primary school at Thuckalai there were more than thirty Muslim pupils, but no Arabic munshi was yet appointed there. A munshi should be appointed by the next school year.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY: Mr. Muhammad Hussain, as regards the representation of the members of the several communities in the publice service, Government have clearly enunciated their policy. All that I can say is that it will not be departed from. When the system of recruitment and promotion in the Judicial Department is revised as indicated in the Dewan's opening address, I am sure the claims of the Mahomedan community will not be lost sight of. You say that no Arabic Munshi has been appointed in the vernacular school, Tuckalai. In regard to this, the Director of Public Instruction points out that the school being only of the primary grade, it is entitled to have on its staff only a Koran teacher on Rs. 10 per mensem, and not an Arabic Munshi.

MEMBER : Even a Koran teacher has not been entertained in that school.

PRESIDENT : The attention of the Director will be invited to this.

In regard to the appointment of men from the Dakni section, Government have not given any such undertaking as you say.

169. Concessions to the Muslim community.

MR. H. B. MUHOMMED ROWTHER (*Member, Nominated*) spoke of the following needs of the Muslims:—

(1) Muslims should be given more appointments in the Judicial Department.

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